



SEN. GEORGE RUNNER (RET.)

MEMBER
STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
CALIFORNIA'S TAX BOARD

August 21, 2014

Governor Jerry Brown
ATTN: Brian Putler, Deputy Legislative Secretary
Governor's Office, Legislative Unit
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1113 (KNIGHT) – PROPERTY TAXATION: DISABLED VETERANS' EXEMPTION • SPONSOR •

Dear Governor Brown:

I respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 1113, which ensures that disabled veterans who encounter bureaucratic delays are able to claim a property tax exemption to which they are entitled.

Under existing law, once a veteran receives a 100% disability rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, he or she qualifies for a state property tax exemption and may claim a refund on the last four years of taxes paid. Occasionally, a veteran with a backdated disability effective date that exceeds four years will contact the State Board of Equalization seeking help to obtain a refund beyond the existing statute of limitations.

Not surprisingly, these disabled veterans are dismayed that after years of struggling with the federal government to obtain a 100% disability rating, California law limits their property tax relief. These veterans express frustration that yet another government entity is preventing them from receiving a benefit to which they are entitled.

SB 1113 will increase the time period for a refund claim under the disabled veterans' exemption from the last four to the last eight years of property taxes paid. It will allow veterans to receive the full benefit of their exemption, even if the rating process takes more than four years to complete.

This legislation, which passed both houses unanimously, is necessary to give veterans better access to a benefit offered to them by a grateful state. For this reason, I am proud to sponsor SB 1113 and respectfully request your signature.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Runner".

Second District

cc: Melanie Cuevas, Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Knight